

Friends of Minisink Valley Public Library

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

MINUTES

MAY 3, 2021

Board Members

Kelsey Deutsch

Sue Shapiro

Anne Friedle

Olivia Brush

Members

Ruth Luis

Nicole Schulltz

Guests

Joanna Goldfarb

Grace Riario

Marilyn McIntosh

Meeting with Greenville Supervisor

April 28, 2021

Board members Sue & Anne

1. The Friends of the Minisink Valley Public Library will be presented to the Greenville Town Board during their May 20, 2021 meeting.
2. Friends' main objective: to ask for the Greenville Town Board to lease the Greenville Resource Center to the Friends for five years.
3. Items for clarifications:
 - a. The board doesn't need to approve the library, just the location
 - b. People representing the four towns will serve on the Library Board and will govern the library, not Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS)
 - c. Parties are in agreement that the GRC is underutilized.
4. Town is not happy with the current agreement with the Port Jervis Library.
 - i. Town will provide Sue expenses on maintaining the GRC

Budget Review

1. The initial budget for the Library was done two years ago (2018 to 2019); was based on expenses from five libraries in Orange County that are similar in size and service to the goal of the Minisink Valley Public Library (23,000 people).
2. Everything is based off the Greenville Resource Center - if we can lease the building to start off, that would knock off approximately half of what would be needed the first year of operation (~\$483,000 difference)
 - a. Question that needs to be asked if we lease the GRC: can we keep the existing resources (materials, furniture, etc...)within the building?

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- b. We would have a focus on children's programs since we know that is what most future patrons are concerned about the most.

Issue of double tax:

- c. There is not a method in New York to avoid double taxation. The benefit is access to both libraries.
 - d. Marilyn suggested: RCLS has one card for the whole system; double taxed patrons would have to choose which library to use. Warned the first few years they would choose the other library before ours.
3. We're going after a [school district library](#) rather than a special district library, because the governor would approve the school district library not a special district one.

Voting

- Renters can vote, too.
- Referendum:
 - Up for vote in 2022
 - Need 25 signatures from registered voters for the Referendum to be place on the ballot by the school
 - Part I: create the library
 - Part II: a levy on the school
- “Yes” votes matter - always want to receive more yes votes as a “just in case”, but also more voices to be heard by all councils in the district.
- 414: stability assessment, Marilyn was the first library director to use the policy in 1994. Similar to the 272 we wish to use. Essentially, the assessment is: once our budget gets passed by the voters, the school district cannot take the money away and the budget is never less than what it was initially voted on.
- The school acts as a collector for the library; would be a separate proposition on the budget.
 - Example:
 - Proposition 1: School Budget
 - Proposition 2: Library
- Budget would need to be in 30 to 45 days ahead of the vote

ACTION ITEM: Sue will contact David Green, Board of Elections Commissioner, to ask:

- How do we set up a vote for a public library?
- How do we set the vote up to be separate from the school vote?
- What exactly is the timeline of the vote?
- When does the budget need to be sent in? 30 or 45 days?
- What does the time frame look like?

Official petitions

- Proposition for trustees
- Every person who want to be elected as Library trustee must present a proposition with 25 signatures from register voters
- We need to find more board members for the library

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- Anne to speak with a few ELA teachers retiring this year as well as some volunteers at the GRC
 - Some volunteers at the GRC fear they would not be needed any more, **which is not true**
- Explanation of why this library needs to be [connected to the RCLS](#) -
 - Required by regulation/sustainability of the library
 - Cannot pay for the catalog yourself (at least \$300,000 a year)
 - Resources of e-content physical content/economies of scale

If the town agrees to lease the GRC, we will push for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the town of Greenville and the Friends that says: yes, the Friends will lease the building, only after the library is chartered and the town has officially agreed to the leasing of the building.

Possible Library Locations

- Store front idea is hard to go for since we don't know what would still be available in about three years and if the rent prices would be the same.
 - would need to ensure there is a public restroom, ADA compliant, etc. which may lead to more costs.
- Looking into School Side Plaza, the red strip
- There is a community center in Unionville that was going to be turned into a resource center

Treasury Report

Total Fundraising as of May 3, 2021: \$4,302.06

- Painting party: \$731.83
- Canisters: \$297.48
- Facebook donations: April \$225
- AmazonSmiles: to generate in May
- Car Decals \$145
- Quarantines: \$2,888 (THANK YOU SO MUCH DINA!!!!!!)

More Fundraising Ideas

- Website needs a storefront to sell car decals and potentially other items
- Other items to sell potentially:
 - Signs (for education now and then for the vote in 2022)
 - T-shirts
 - Local Author event?
 - Can be held over zoom or at the Greenville Town Park
- Yard Sale Event
 - Anne and Nicole to look into this
 - In the fall
 - Shannon Park or the Church as a location
- Otisville Fair is happening in August
- We cannot sell 50/50 tickets but we can raffle off a basket.

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- Marilyn suggested getting a thermometer on the website for everyone to see the goal we wish to reach and how they're already contributing to the cause.

ACTION ITEM: Olivia to work on the WIX program

Next Meeting: May 19, 2021 at 6:30pm Greenville Resource Center

**** this meeting is in preparation of the Friends Group presenting to the Greenville Town Board the following day, May 20th.**